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Message Text

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63
ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 OES-05 ARA-10 /058 W
---------- 083321
R 041805Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256
INFO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

UNCLAS LONDON 15859

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, UK
SUBJ: NASA MOBILE LASER RANGING STATION ON BERMUDA
REF: STATE 250018

1. FOLLOWING FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS BY EMBASSY, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HAS NOW AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" THAT NASA LASER STATION MAY BE BUILT COOPERS ISLAND, BERMUDA UNDER TERMS OF EXISTING AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT GOVENOR OF BERMUDA HAS REQUESTED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING STATION AND THAT CONGEN BERMUDA IS ARRANGING BRIEFING FOR HIM "WITHIN A FEW DAYS" FCO HAS ASKED THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON STATION NOT COMMENCE UNTIL AFTER BRIEFING BUT THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION IF NASA WISHES IMMEDIATELY POSITION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT ON BERMUDA IN ORDER BEGIN WORK AS SOON AS GOVERNOR'S BRIEFING HAS TAKEN PLACE.

2. FCO HAS STATED UKG "WOULD BE GRATEFUL" IF NASA WOULD PRIOR TO ACTUAL OPERATION OF LASER, PROVIDE SOME FURTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY ARE ASKING:
(A) WAVE LENGTH OF LASER; (B) ITS POWER OR ENERGY OUTPUT; AND (C) WHETHER IT PULSED OR CONTINUOUS WAVE. THEY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFO NASA CAN PROVIDE (IN ADDITION TO THAT CONTAINED REFTEL) THAT MAY HELP TO RELIEVE UK CONCERN RE OPERATIONAL SAFETY.

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3. RE GRAND TURK LASER STATION, FCO OFFICIAL (DAVID,

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DEFENSE DEPT.) TOLD US WORK ON TEXT OF NOTES TO BE EX-
CHANGED HAD BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE BECAUSE FCO HAD CON-
SIDERED DEALING WITH BOTH BERMUDA AND GRAND TURK LASER
STATIONS IN SAME NOTE EXCHANGE. SINCE IT NOW DECIDED
EXISTING AGREEMENT COVERS BERMUDA STATION WORK ON NOTE
DEALING WITH GRAND TURK ALONE CAN NOW GO FORWARD. DAVID
ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH UKG RECOGNIZES AMOUNT OF AIR
TRAFFIC IN VICINITY OF GRAND TURK CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN
AROUND BERMUDA, IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATE RE-
CEIVING DESCRIPTION OF PRECAUTIONS THAT WILL BE TAKEN AT
GRAND TURK LASER STATION TO AVOID HAZARDING AIRCRAFT. IT
WOULD ALSO LIKE FOR GRAND TURK LASER SAME INFO AS RE-
QUESTED PARA 2 ABOVE FOR BERMUDA.

SPIERS

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